



Speech by

GEOFF WILSON

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Hansard 11 September 2003

HOUSING BILL

Mr WILSON (Ferny Grove—ALP) (12.34 p.m.): It gives me great pleasure to rise to support the bill brought in by Minister Schwarten. In the interests of time, I want to make a couple of brief comments. There is a significant amount of public housing within my electorate, and we provide a large volume of assistance to people who are seeking to access public housing or who are seeking the assistance of the department with problems that they are experiencing when residing in public housing.

I want to take this opportunity to place on record my confidence that this legislation—modernising as it does the primary statutory instrument that enables the Housing Commission to function—is a very good piece of legislation which will go a long way to assisting the Queensland government deliver the best outcomes for people in need of public housing in my electorate and throughout Queensland.

I want to place on record this confidence because I know there are people in my electorate who are anxious about the future of public housing. I have told them time and time again that the basis of their anxiety ought to be directed towards the federal government for the way in which it is significantly underfunding public housing in Australia, particularly in Queensland. This legislation will go a long way to making the most of our constrained circumstances in providing public housing for those most in need.

I also want to place on record my appreciation and gratitude—which I will ask the minister to convey to staff in his office and his department—for the way in which public housing officials deal with problems that arise in my electorate. No doubt it is experienced by other members throughout Queensland. In particular, in the last 12 months there have been two serious fires in commission houses in my electorate. The speed with which Housing Commission officers have responded to the predicament that those families were in is highly commendable. Fortunately, no-one lost their life and no-one was injured in either of those two fires, which were separated by a period of about 12 months. The way in which Housing, Public Works and Q-Build reacted was just fantastic. I want to place on record my thanks for that. I commend the bill to the House.